



117 HUDSON AVE., CHATHAM, NY, 12037
PARISH OFFICE: (518) 392-4991
Stjameschatham.org
Part of the Catholic Community
of Northern Columbia County (CCNCC)

Welcome, wherever you are on your life's journey.

Rev. George P. Fleming, Pastor

Our St. James Parish Mission:

Energized by the Eucharist and Scripture, we are a welcoming and affirming community that celebrates Christ Jesus in our midst. We value prayer, education, art, music, and the beauty of God's creation in our quest for spiritual growth and social justice in the world.
~Accepted at Liturgy, April 12th and 13th, 2014

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
November 22, 2020

Furthermore with Fr. George:

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as members of His Body, sharing everlasting life.

This weekend is the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe ...I am going to repeat a theme or two from my pre-recorded homily because I have been giving it so much thought...what does it mean to be a king in today's world? Many of us have always been fascinated by the British monarchy and see their recent role as being vastly different from the despots who brought fear over centuries to the heroes of medieval folklore. For early Christians, they saw the role of Jesus Christ as king as a return of the King of Israel and something even more powerful. As believers that the Second Coming would be in their lifetimes, they anticipated that Jesus would truly come in glory and, frankly, militaristically in order to throw down the Emperor and all those in power.

In the Rite of Baptism for Children, the words above are shared immediately after Baptism as the celebrant marks the sign of the Cross with Sacred Chrism on those receiving the Sacrament. It is a powerful moment and I believe it is in context of the threefold mission to be Priest, Prophet and King that best captures the role of being a King.

These prayers are the same for women and men, girls and boys and each has a call to answer. In context of this, we are called to be priests, as in the priesthood of all believers, sanctifying each other with Grace. We are called to be prophetic in a world that ignores truth or goes silent. We are called to be heirs of Jesus Christ as participants and then proclaimers of the Kingdom of God. Our role is not to lord over others but to be compassionate companions and respectfully be servant leaders. Once we have experienced true faith, our impulse should be to share that experience.

When talking with children, I like to bring up the character of Simba from "The Lion King" and what kind of ruler he would

be unlike his evil uncle. For adults, we remember the iconic scene from "Titanic" where the young hero Jack cries out in delight, "I am the King of the World!" Reports suggest this was a last-minute addition to the script that was meant to capture the awe-inspiring beauty, power and majesty before him. The character first experienced this with a friend from the ship but later in the film and then later shares the experience by bringing his new love, Rose, to the same place.

Interestingly, when Googling this, most of what came up was the criticism of "Titanic" director James Cameron for exclaiming Jack's famous line when accepting his Oscar for Best Director. Critics then and now (including Cameron himself) judged the repetition of that line inappropriate. Cameron was accused of being arrogant and obnoxious. Worst of all, as his movie swept so many awards; he was seen as cruelly insensitive to those who were losing in his wake. (Pun intended)

As we are called to be proud Priests, Prophets and Kings, may we respond with humility. Next week we will begin the journey of Lent and we will make this journey together even if we are socially distant. In anticipation of a birth that will free us from sin, anoint us with healing and salvation and draw us together as one, our focus will rest on the themes represented by the Advent Candle: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. May we navigate the waters of troubled times with these gifts from God to direct our emotions, steer clear of the obstacles in our way and bring us safely home.

Father George

Giving Thanks Together Online

Join Father George and area clergy for a special Digital Ecumenical Thanksgiving Day Service sponsored by the Ichabod Crane Clergy Association composed of Christian Churches in the school district. Hosted on the website of St. Paul's Church in Kinderhook, this will also be available Wednesday evening on our Facebook pages and will eventually be on our websites. Now more than ever, we want to show the strength of our community, pray for our nation, and give thanks to God for the blessings we share.

PARISH INFORMATION

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Celebration of the Eucharist:

To ensure safe worship together, we are welcoming up to 80 worshippers to 9AM Sunday Mass by last name, alphabetical order. For all those who are not ready to return to church, we encourage you to continue worshipping with us online at stjameschatham.org. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been suspended, and we will continue to offer online masses for the entire CCNCC community for the foreseeable future. Please check our website or Facebook page for more info and to register for Mass online.

November 2020 Mass Schedule:

Sunday, Nov. 22 — Cycle 1 worshippers' last names A-D

Sunday, Nov. 29 — Cycle 2 worshippers' last names E-K

Please call our parish office at (518) 392-4991 or send an e-mail to sjofficeassistant@gmail.com if you would like to reserve a seat at an upcoming Mass for yourself, family member, and/or guest. **We will also do our best to accommodate you and your family if you would like to attend Mass off cycle. Kindly let us know in advance by email or phone.** Please arrive early, and be aware that wearing a mask is required. Church doors will open at 8:30AM.

We look forward to worshipping with you at St. James!

CONFESSIONS

Please call the office at 392-4991 or email our office at sjofficeassistant@gmail.com if you would like to schedule a confession with Fr. George.

PARISH OFFICE:

Address: 117 Hudson Ave., Chatham, NY, 12037

Open: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Hours: 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Phone: (518) 392-4991

In Case of Emergency: Please call (518) 303-3636

ST. JAMES STAFF:

Parish Office Assistant: Beth Lenahan

Phone: (518) 392-4991

E-mail: sjofficeassistant@gmail.com

Music Director: Justine Rodriguez

Phone: (518) 986-9800

E-mail: justinerodriguez@gmail.com

ST. JAMES PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Edgar Acevedo, Nancy Carrizales, Beth Lenahan, Maria Lull,

Paula Ptaszek, Gabriella Sperry

ST. JAMES CHURCH TRUSTEES:

Mickey Dennis and Jack Yurish

Do you have an item for publication in our St. James bulletin?

Please send it via e-mail to: stofficeassistant@gmail.com

Please submit items by Tuesday at 2pm

FAITH FORMATION

ST. JAMES FAITH FORMATION

We welcome families to continue enrolling in Faith Formation this fall as we launch new learning programs that are easily accessible online and through workbooks for home study.

Preschool through Grade 5: Sundays 10-11am online and home workbooks

Grades 6-9 and Confirmation: Monday night by Zoom and home study modules

Administrator: Angelique Hebert

Cell Phone: (518) 653- 6542

Home Phone: (518) 758-1319

Email: saintjamesfaithformation@gmail.com

FAITH FORMATION FALL 2020 SCHEDULE:

Kindergarten through Grade 5: Home study materials available.

Grades 6 through 9: Monday nights, hybrid program

11/23 Module 2 Review - Zoom Session, 6:30pm

11/30 Module 3 - eLearning Home Lesson

12/7 Module 3 Review - Zoom Session, 6:30pm

12/14 Module 4 - eLearning Home Lesson

12/21 Module 4 Review - Zoom Session, 6:30pm

12/28 Christmas Break

Confirmation - Grade 10: Monday nights 6:30 - 8pm via Zoom:

11/23 Zoom Session, 6:30 - 8pm

11/30 Zoom Session, 6:30 - 8pm

12/7 Zoom Session, 6:30 - 8pm

12/14 Zoom Session, 6:30 - 8pm

12/21 Zoom Session, 6:30 - 8pm

12/28 Christmas Break

FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR EVENTS

Sunday, November 29, 4pm: CCNCC Family Mass and distribution of Advent materials at St James Church.

Attention all Lectors!

The 2021 edition of *Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers and Proclaimers of the Word* are now available for pickup in the kitchenette. If you are a reader, please pick up your copy before Mass or during office hours, Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9AM-1PM.

MORNING BOOK CLUB DEC. 16

The next morning book club will take place on **Wednesday, December 16 at 10AM** in the Gathering Space. The featured book is *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. Please call Dee Winkler at (518) 392-2297 for more information. All are welcome, and please remember to bring your mask!

PARISH OUTREACH

For more information about OutReach, please contact
Denise Barry, St. James OutReach coordinator,
at (518) 929-4369

#1. "Dining Out For Others", the 8th annual fundraiser sponsored by Catholic Charities of Columbia/Greene Counties, is held on Wednesdays in November in collaboration with participating restaurants and other businesses to benefit the Emergency Assistance Fund.

On Thanksgiving Eve, November 25th, enjoy a delicious "dine in" or "take out" meal while supporting this endeavor at Local 111 in Philmont or O's Hillsdale Diner. Your support is crucial to the success of "Dining Out" by which \$1,500 was raised in 2013 building up to just under \$10,000 in both 2018 and 2019, thus becoming the second highest fundraiser of Catholic Charities of Columbia-Greene.

#2. In time for Veteran's Day a large number of items was collected at St James at the request of Chatham American Legion Auxiliary Post 43 for distribution to deployed troops. **Many thanks to all who contributed.**

#3. This week items donated by our parishioners to give away included a sofa sleeper, two end tables, a rug, a bed, a dresser, and bookshelf. A couch, loveseat, and storage unit are being transacted this week. All items are shared in the Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County (CCNCC) via our distribution network. **If you have household items, or clothing to give away, please call the OutReach number at (518) 929-4369.**

#4. If you are interested in "**adopting**" a family this holiday season, please call Outreach. The extent of commitment is at the donor's discretion. Two families may decide to combine efforts to meet the needs of a third family. Or, donors may decide to restrict their gift-giving only to the children in the recipient family. Every year more than two dozen families benefit from this program. Tags that were formerly on the Giving Tree (but this year were distributed after Mass due to COVID restrictions) fulfill seventy five additional requests from children referred by Chatham's elementary school.

#5. The annual **Holiday Food Drive** is underway through

December 25th. This drive is conducted prior to Christmas and Easter to benefit the Chatham and Ghent food pantries. If you would like to contribute, please write a check payable to St. James with "Food Drive" on the memo line and mail it to St. James Parish, 117 Hudson Avenue, Chatham, NY 12037. Thank you.

#6. **The Marion Stegmann Fund** has served the needy in northern Columbia County since 1956. Families who reside in Chatham, Ichabod Crane, and New Lebanon school districts are eligible to access the fund for holiday



"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'"

- Mt 25:34—36

assistance. Application forms, which must be submitted by November 27th, are on the Gathering Space table. Please note: in order to donate books for inclusion in the Stegmann gift bags for children, please deliver the books to the Kinderhook Elks Club by December 5th on weekdays after 4 PM, or on Saturdays and Sundays after 3 PM. Please call Marilyn Martin at (518) 392-9751 to donate mittens and gloves for the gift bags.

#7. Every year **holiday greeting cards** on behalf of our parish are prepared and distributed to all residents of the Whittier complex and the Payn Home. Hats off to our team members who handle this project. It truly takes a village -or in this case a parish-to achieve this goal!

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: 11/22

Please be generous in this week's special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, one in six people lives in poverty. With this collection, you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect will remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and work on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection. You can also give online by going to <https://www.osvhub.com/st-james-chatham/funds/campaign-for-human-development>

PLANTING SEEDS FOR FAITH ENRICHMENT

Edited by Nick Biggs in conjunction with the Center for Faith Enrichment

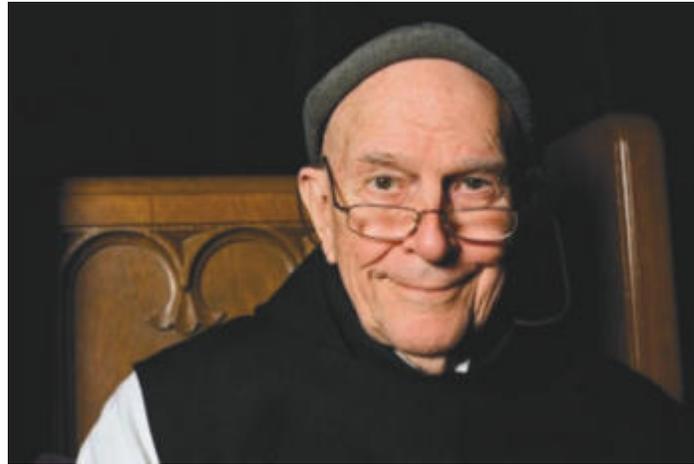
“There is nowhere God is not.” ~Joe Mondel

In a series of meditations based on Thomas Keating's book of poems, The Secret Embrace, Fr Richard Rohr and Cynthia Bourgeault discuss the concept variously known as contemplation, meditation or Centering Prayer as a means of approaching God.

“To many people, contemplation is an old-fashioned word, but it simply means *the deliberate seeking of God by an inner dialogue*. The soul grows closer to God through our willingness to detach from the passing self, the tyranny of feelings, the addiction to self-image, and the false promises of culture. It is a journey into the nothingness of true faith, where the ordinary rules of thinking, managing, explaining, and fixing up the smaller self do not apply. Contemplation shouldn't be used to spiritually bypass what is real, harmful, or unjust in our lives or the world around us. However, with steady practice it will eventually give us *the ability to stay present to what is, and meet it with wisdom, compassion, and courage*. All the major world religions at their more mature stages recognize the necessity of contemplative practice in some form and under different names.

“At every moment, all our life long, we identify ourselves either with our thoughts, our self-image, or our feelings. We have to find a way to get beyond those things to discover our ‘original face,’ the one we already had before we were born. Even with great practice, most of us will only glimpse or abide in our True Self for moments at a time while we are alive...

“... In the 1980s, when [Thomas Keating's] first books and videos were beginning to appear, God was still very much framed within the classic Western model with God as ‘he’—a father figure. Thomas' initial focus during the early years of his teaching was to shift that image away from a fearsome father, the wrathful God who has caused so much misery and woundedness for Western seekers, to a ‘divine therapist’: supportive, trustworthy, and a hundred percent behind us in our journey of transformation.



Fr. Thomas Keating, a Trappist abbot, was an internationally renowned theologian, author, and one of the principal architects and teachers of the Centering Prayer movement, which sought the recovery of the contemplative dimension of Christianity.

“But by the end of his life, Thomas is in a very different place. God co-inheres and interpenetrates everything, the ocean-in-drop and drop-in-ocean, constantly exchanging in a dance of endless fecundity. God is not the ‘author’ of creation,

removed and overarching; the whole thing is God. There is not a single place in all creation where God is not, because God is creation itself, endlessly outpouring, endlessly receiving itself back. From top to bottom, we live and move and have our being in a participative reality, every fractal joined to every other fractal in a symphony of divine becoming pouring forth from that infinite wellspring.

“A theme that continues in all the poems contained Secret Embrace is that silence is not absence, but presence. It is a ‘something,’ not a nothing. It has substantiality, heft, force. You can lean into it, and it leans back. It meets you; it holds you up.

“That’s hardly how it’s understood in our culture at large, of course, where silence is typically seen as ‘vacant space,’ waiting to be filled up with content. We try to cram every ‘empty’ moment full. Even when we begin a meditation practice, this preference for content remains, and we will often approach silence as a kind of inner desert, a place of inner uncovering, which we enter to hear ‘messages from God.’ It’s the messages that most grab us at the start; we’re all ears for whatever new insight emerges out of the silence.

“Gradually, as we progress in Centering Prayer—or in any meditation practice, for that matter—we begin to reorient. Centering Prayer’s instructions to let go of all thoughts, regardless of content, directs us back to the silence itself, and we gradually learn the shape of the new terrain. As we stop grabbing for content, we gradually discover that silence does indeed have depth, presence, shape, even sound. As we mature in Centering Prayer, the perception that the emptiness is in fact the presence becomes more and more palpable...”

ST. JAMES PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep these individuals in your prayers:

*Tom Barber, Lorene Bowes, John Brady, Ellen Coleman,
Dr. Valerie Curry, Lyle Daniels, Steven Donnellan,
Debbie DuBois, Barbara Haywood, Heather, Barbara Laspada,
Richard Leggitt, Connie Mondel, Courtney Powell,
Anthony Roberts, Deacon Paul Roemer, Sr., Joseph Sikoskie,
Kyle Stickle, Kay Toll, Lauren Wrigley,
and Jack and Emma Yurish*

Also, please pray for the recently deceased and the comfort of their families:

John Colwill, John Dunne, Robert Gross, Philip Ilardo

And please keep these first responders in your prayers:

*Courtney Baksa, Katherine A. Behrens, Kristy Buchan,
Tracy Crandall, Beth DeMatteo, Sarah Every,
Laura Jean Kaninenberg Jones, Shannon Kennedy,
Julia Kilcer, Liane Koenig, Minerva Lord, Jessica McCoy,
Maija Moore, Celia Muoser, Bill Murphy,
Samson Shakarian, Laura Sundstrom, Joe Testa,
Anita Wilhelm, Carl Winkler, and Karen Zwycewicz*

Please contact our parish office at (518) 392-4991 or by e-mail at siofficeassistant@gmail.com if names need to be added or deleted.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Nov. 22: **Cathy Arsenault** by Peg Wilhelm
Elizabeth Blume by Jeanie Blume
Scott O'Brien by Diana Coughlin

Sunday, Nov. 29: **Mary Bradley** by Peg Wilhelm
Jerry Dieffenbach by Pat Dieffenbach
Donald Radley Jr. by Barbara Haywood

WEDNESDAY ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Please join us to pray the Rosary together **every Wednesday at 4PM** in the Gathering Space at St. James Church. All are welcome!

THANKS FROM THE HAITI COMMITTEE

Writes Pat Dieffenbach, chair of the St. James Church Haiti Committee:

Thank you for your generosity in supporting our Haiti Ministry. We are grateful this year to have envelopes since we are not able to have a large Mass attendance and cannot rely on a second collection.

The total received is approximately \$1,400 but we expect more responses in the week ahead. Unfortunately due to COVID19 we cannot have our February Treasures & Trifles sale so we need these funds to continue supporting Ste. Cécile in the winter months. We so appreciate it!



Kyle Stickle is a young St. James parishioner and Ichabod Crane middle schooler who is undergoing treatment for cancer. His friends at St. James are hosting a pizza fundraiser Sunday, November 22 that will operate out of a food truck parked in the lot adjacent to our church. **All proceeds from the sale of delicious pizzas, donuts and cookies will benefit Kyle's family.** Pre-order your wood-fired, personalized pizzas and desserts online by going to our homepage stjameschatham.org or <https://forms.gle/frdAPtLETfR1nnEn8>

and indicate what time you'd like to pick them up. Walk-ups are also welcome! Tell your friends and family and plan a pre-Thanksgiving treat that will help our young hero!

THE 2021 DIOCESAN APPEAL

Please note these changes to the campaign formerly known as the Bishop's Appeal:

- **The campaign will now be known as the Diocesan Appeal** and themed, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)
- There will no longer be "in-pew" collection of pledges.
- The 2020-2021 Diocesan Appeal will begin with a mailing sent to parishioners from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany (RCDA) - Office of Stewardship and Development. You should expect to receive this correspondence this fall; it will include a pledge card and envelope.
- Pledges and payments will no longer be processed in parish office.
- The appeal year runs through June 30, 2021 (rather than ending in March as in the past.)
- Monthly or one-time gifts by credit card can be made via our secure website at donate.thediocesanappeal.org. You can also make a pledge at the site as well as pledge payments.
- For more information on the appeal, visit www.thediocesanappeal.org.
- Questions? Call the RCDA Office of Stewardship & Development at 518-453-6680, email stewardship@rcda.org



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